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Pharmacist renewal

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has advised that pharmacists who did not renew their registration by 31 Dec must lodge a new application for registration. Pharmacists who did not renew by 30 Nov 2013 could renew by paying a late fee until 31 Dec but those who did not renew by then have consequently lost registration, their names have been removed from the online Register of Pharmacists and they are no longer able to practise, the Board said. Fast track application forms are available on the Board's website, but pharmacists could not practise until the application was processed and registration details updated on the national register. To access the forms, [CLICK HERE](#).

Feb Aust Pharmacist

THE February edition of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) monthly organ *Australian Pharmacist* has been published. PSA president Grant Kardachi reflects on the identity of the Society as the Western Australian group joins the national body. Other articles include pharmacists and drug abuse, Canberra Commentary and CPD options.

PSA proposes high profile

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has presented its 2013-14 Federal Budget submission claiming for pharmacists, as one of the most trusted and accessible professionals in Australia, a higher profile role in the healthcare system.

National President of the PSA, Grant Kardachi, said "Pharmacists are highly qualified health professionals yet their skills, knowledge and expertise are often under-recognised and under-utilised.

"Australia now has a large and growing pharmacist workforce that is highly trained."

Kardachi said that the PSA Budget submission was a pragmatic and realistic approach in light of tight economic conditions.

"Throughout this submission, we explore where pharmacists can really make a difference to the lives of Australians and set out what is needed to optimise this important role," he said.

The submission proposes three opportunities where the skills of pharmacists can be better utilised to fulfil unmet needs by integrating them into a collaborative healthcare framework to improve

health outcomes for Australians.

The three PSA proposals are:

1. A \$90m workforce program over three years to "close the Indigenous health gap"
2. A \$15.7m pilot program over three years to provide primary healthcare solutions for Australians in rural and remote communities via pharmacies
3. A \$7m pilot program over three years addressing chronic disease, especially diabetes management coordination.

Kardachi added that successive CPAs have provided a measure of certainty for the community pharmacy sector and delivered savings to government.

New fund for injured

A NEW fund has been set up for people suffering from a significant injury, disability or illness.

The Slater & Gordon Health Projects and Research Fund will provide \$2m worth of grants by 2020 for not-for-profit groups, allied health organisations and research bodies in Australia and the United Kingdom.

The new fund built on the work of the firm's Asbestos Research Fund (ARF) which provided more than \$1.4m towards education and research for asbestos-related cancers over the past ten years, Grech said.

Imipramine in stock

STENLAKE Compounding Chemist has imipramine in stock now.

Any pharmacists looking for alternatives to the Tofranil and Tolerade brands that are currently difficult to source, can contact Stenlake Compounding Chemist 02 9387 3205 for more information.

TGA seeks advisors

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has today called for expressions of interest for vacancies on its statutory advisory committees, in a range of fields.

Members were appointed by the Minister and in general served for up to three years, with three consecutive terms allowed, the TGA said.

Expressions of interest need to be lodged by 03 Mar.

To lodge your EOI, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Anthony Huxley**, Managing Director of **Covad**.



It's like mortar in a brick wall

ONE of Pharmacy's most powerful assets is "context".

And it's the one most often overlooked or not leveraged at all.

In 2013 we undertook a national research program to help us better understand the consumers' perspective of Pharmacy and to explore the dynamics of their relationships.

What we came to understand was in one sense nothing new, but it was also revelatory. A question we put to focus groups was, "If you had the choice of getting health cover from a call centre, website, health-fund or your Pharmacy, which would you prefer?" That 100% responded "my pharmacy" struck us like a lightning bolt.

Whilst the Pharmacy business proposition has evolved into something materially more about discounting than anything else, consumers today still regard Pharmacy as the centre point of health and wellbeing.

Therein lies the context and we believe, like mortar in a brick wall, it is what ties it all together.

Too often the temptation is to pursue service bolt-ons or to include new retail lines which have nothing to do with health and wellbeing, and you're then left to wonder why you're carrying stock you can never shift.

For Pharmacy the context is health and wellbeing, leverage that.

API to reduce discounts

PETER Robinson, chairman of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (API), has outlined the impacts hitting pharmacies and the consequent effect on wholesalers in his address to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting last Thursday.

Robinson said that a broadly felt impact of the current operating environment will be further reductions in customers' discounts.

API's investment in the Priceline Pharmacy brand and Priceline Pharmacy network has been an important positive driver of income in a "highly challenging environment," he said.

"Whilst the price cuts from the disclosure rules may have saved the PBS \$5 billion, they have also reduced the pharmaceutical wholesalers' revenue by approximately \$450 million calendar 2013 and we calculate a further \$575 million, to date, in decline for the 2014 calendar year," he summarised.

In spite of these income challenges, API returned a statutory net profit after

tax of \$24.3m, representing after adjustment for non-regular items, a net profit up 9.6% on the previous year.

Retail sales for Priceline and Priceline Pharmacy stores, excluding dispensary sales, were up 9.0% on the corresponding period last year.

With 370 Priceline Pharmacy stores in the network and 4.3 million Priceline Sister Club members, the retail strategy has delivered a strong result given the environment, said Robinson.

Ongoing attention will be given to building the other API brands: Soul Pattinson, Pharmacist Advice and Club Premium, all of which grew through 2013.

The online store is also anticipated to play an important role in 2014, he added.



CHF joins SHPA group

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has joined a reference group established by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA) that supports accredited pharmacists.

The group aimed to identify how consumers and GPs could achieve best value from Home Medicine Reviews (HMRs) and Residential Medicine Reviews, with a key focus being the continued support for HMRs provided to consumers outside the usual pharmacy settings.

CHF valued the HMR program and wanted to ensure consumer needs were at the heart of the design as it moved forward.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FAT cat.

This cat needs advice on how to lose weight - Meatball the aptly named oversized cat weighs a hefty 36 pounds, or about 16kg.

Meatball belongs to an Arizona animal shelter but he's not up for adoption.

Instead the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control is trying to place him in a rescue organisation that helps overweight cats, the *Associated Press* reported.

The shelter told the publication that Meatball was extremely friendly and could walk comfortably despite his weight.

'I'M a dedicated employee.'

Some people are pretty dedicated to their jobs, like Michael Mosley, a science journalist and presenter who has infested himself with tapeworms for a BBC documentary, the *Telegraph* reported.

Mosley has been allowing three worms to live in his gut for the past two months as part of *BBC Four's* natural world season, with leeches, lice and mosquitoes also among Mosley's self-inflicted parasites.

Medical experts advise against self infestation due to negative effects which can be serious.

WIN A derma e PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **derma e** pack, valued at \$43.90 each.

Known as the "Skin Vitamin", Vitamin E is peerless at rehydrating and nourishing even the driest, most severely cracked skin. **derma e** uses potent amounts of high quality Vitamin E in its Vitamin E Moisturising Crème and Skin Oil. The Skin Oil is fantastic for scars, stretch marks and ageing skin. Both products can be used on the face and body.

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